

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-11, and 19-20 have been amended.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus,~~ A shield for positioning between a wearer and a gaffed climbing apparatus to shield the wearer from the gaffed climbing apparatus, wherein the gaffed climbing apparatus includes a sleeve member received within a hook member and a hook member connected to a spike member, the shield comprising:

a unitary L-shaped shield member having a vertical portion sized to receive engage and protect at least a portion of a leg and a horizontal portion sized to receive engage and protect at least a portion of a foot, said unitary L-shaped shield member is adapted to be connected to said hook member below the sleeve member;

wherein said unitary L-shaped shield member is constructed to protect simultaneously at least a portion of a leg and at least a portion of a foot; and

wherein said unitary L-shaped shield member is removably positionable within at least a portion of a gaffed climbing apparatus.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ shield of claim 1, wherein said shield is substantially convex about an outer surface of said shield.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ shield of claim 1, wherein said shield is substantially concave about an inner surface of said shield.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ shield of claim 1, wherein said ~~apparatus~~ shield further comprises at least one fastener positioned on said shield, said at least one fastener capable of assisting in attachment to the gaffed climbing apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ shield of claim 4, wherein said fastener comprises at least one magnet positioned on an outer surface of said shield.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ shield of claim 4, wherein said fastener comprises hook and loop fasteners.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ shield of claim 1, wherein said ~~apparatus~~ shield further comprises at least one fastener positioned on said vertical portion, said at least one fastener capable of assisting in attachment to the at least a portion of a leg.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ shield of claim 7, wherein said at least one fastener is capable of receiving at least one strap.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ shield of claim 1,, wherein said ~~apparatus~~ shield further comprises at least one fastener positioned on said horizontal portion, said at least one fastener capable of assisting in attachment to the at least a portion of a foot.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ shield of claim 9, wherein said at least one fastener is capable of receiving at least one strap.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:  
a sleeve member;  
a hook member received within the sleeve member;  
a spike member connected to said hook member; and  
a unitary L-shaped shield member having a vertical portion sized to receive engage and protect at least a portion of a leg and a horizontal portion sized to receive engage and protect at least a portion of a foot, said shield member connected to said hook member, wherein said unitary L-shaped shield member is constructed to protect simultaneously a portion of a leg and a portion of a foot.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising at least one fastener capable of assisting in attaching said apparatus to the at least a portion of a leg.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising at least one fastener capable of assisting in attaching said apparatus to the at least a portion of a foot.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said shield member is substantially convex about an outer surface of said shield member.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said shield member is substantially concave about an inner surface of said shield member.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said shield member is connected to said hook member by at least one magnet.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said shield member is connected to said hook member by hook and loop fasteners.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said shield member is permanently affixed to said hook member.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, A shield for positioning between a wearer and a gaffed climbing apparatus, wherein said gaffed climbing apparatus includes a sleeve member received within a hook member and said hook member connected to a spike member, said shield, comprising:

a unitary L-shaped shielding means member comprising a vertical shielding and horizontal shielding means;

said vertical shielding means for protecting at least a portion of a leg; and

said horizontal shielding means for protecting at least a portion of a foot,

said vertical shielding means connected to said horizontal shielding means, said vertical shielding means sized to receive engage at least a portion of a leg and said horizontal shielding means sized to receive engage at least a portion of a foot, said unitary L-shaped shielding member is adapted to be connected to said hook member;

wherein said vertical shielding and horizontal shielding means are constructed to protect simultaneously a portion of a leg and a portion of a foot; and

wherein said vertical and horizontal shielding means removably positionable within at least a portion of a said gaffed climbing apparatus.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus shield of claim 19, wherein said apparatus shield further comprises at least one attachment means for assisting in attachment of at least one of said vertical and horizontal shielding means to the gaffed climbing apparatus, said at least one attachment means positioned on at least one of said vertical and horizontal shielding means.